NANTYGLO & BLAINA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1946

ABERTILLERY:
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1947.

Annual Report for the Year 1946

To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantyglo & Blaina Urban District Council.

Gentlemen

I have the honour of submitting my report to you for the year 1946.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District	3,862 Acres
Estimate of Population, 1921	16,453
do. do. 1931	13,190
do. do. 1941	12,440
do. do. 1945	11,410
do. do. 1946	11,540
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,100
do. Families (estimated)	3,400
Rateable Value of the District	£31,553
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£113

VITAL STATISTICS.

Number of Births	225
do. Legitimate Births :- Boys 115 ; Girls 99	
do. Illegitimate Births :- Boys 7 : Girls 4	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	19·49
do. do. do. (Mon. County)	19·90
do. do. do. (England & Wales)	19·1
Number of Still Births :- 3 Boys ; 1 Girl ...	4
Still Births per 1,000 of Population ...	0·36
do. do. do. (Mon. County)	0·64
do. do. do. (England & Wales)	0·53
Number of Deaths ... Males 72 ; Females 55 ...	127
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population ...	11·00
do. do. do. (Mon. County)	11·7
do. do. do. (England & Wales)	11·5

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
Number of Deaths (under 1 year)	9	12	16	9	11	19	11	16	17	9
Number of Births	225	203	217	219	223	204	189	191	167	164
Mortality Rate	40·0	59·1	73·7	41·1	49·3	93·1	58·2	83·7	101·8	55·5

Particulars of Deaths of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week	2	1—3 months	3	Total under 1 year ...	9
1—2 weeks	0	3—6 months	1		
2—3 weeks	1	6—9 months	1		
3—4 weeks	1	9—12 months	0		
	4		5		

Total Number of Births ... 225 Total Number of Deaths ... 9

Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ... 40·0

1946. Analysis of Total Cases from Infectious Diseases according to Age Groups.															Deaths from Infectious Cases according to Age Groups.												
DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Total	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Total	Number Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	2	3	19	7	1	2	...	...	...	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Measles	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	5	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	2	1	3	4	4	23	8	1	3	...	3	...	52	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	5	4
TUBERCULOSIS.																											
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	6	...
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	2	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	6	...

Deaths from All Causes during the Year 1946.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 and over	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (of Respiratory System) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	3	3	6
Tuberculosis (other forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	8	8	16
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	11	5	16
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	19	28	27	21	48
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	7	2	9
Pneumonia	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach in Duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2
Congenital Diseases	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Accidental Deaths	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	3	5
All other causes	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	5	1	6
Total ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	7	43	64	72	55	127

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1946.

Analysis of Infectious Diseases according to Wards and Districts.

DISEASE	WARDS			TOTAL	DISTRICTS		TOTAL
	North	Central	South		Nantyglo	Blaina	
Scarlet Fever	1	12	23	36	3	33	36
Measles	1	0	2	3	1	2	3
Whooping Cough	1	1	3	5	1	4	5
Diphtheria	2	1	0	3	2	1	3
Pneumonia	2	0	1	3	2	1	3
Erysipelas	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorium ...	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
	8	15	29	52	10	42	52
Tuberculosis { Pulmonary ...	2	2	3	7	2	5	7
Tuberculosis { Non-Pulmonary ...	1	0	1	2	1	1	2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is situated at the Northern end of the County of Monmouth and is bounded on the West by the Ebbw Vale Urban District, on the South by the Abertillery Urban District and on the North by the Brynmawr Urban District.

Coal Mining is the chief Industry in our District.

In addition we have four minor industries—THE POWLEY PRODUCTS employing 66 Males and 49 Females, a total of 115; LUXTON'S GLOVES employing 4 Males and 56 Females, a total of 60; STEVENS LEATHERCRAFT employing 1 Male and 25 Females, a total of 26; WEBSTERS (MONMOUTH) LTD. employing 12 Males and 4 Females, a total of 16; STEVEN'S LEATHERCRAFT (NANTYGLO) employing 2 Males and 30 Females, a total of 32.

The unemployed figures show an improvement at the end of 1946, the number of wholly unemployed was 202 Males and 198 Females, a total of 400. The number temporarily unemployed was 4 Males and 1 Female, a total of 5.

Section B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The Public Health staff engaged by the Council are myself, as Medical Officer of Health (part time) and a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate. One half of the salaries are paid by the County Council.

Facilities are provided by the County Authority for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens of water, milk and food stuffs. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council and is kept by me for the use of medical practitioners who require it.

There are no Ambulance facilities provided by the Council.

There are two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, one at Nantyglo and one at Blaina. They, as well as the School medical inspections, are conducted by the County Medical Staff. The nearest treatment for Venereal Diseases is at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Brynmawr on Tuesday and Abertillery on Wednesday, There is no clinic held at Blaina as no suitable accommodation could be found. The clinics at Brynmawr and Abertillery are attended by medical officers from the staff of the Welsh National Memorial Association.

Patients who are too ill to attend may be visited in the home with a view to being admitted to one of the hospitals under the Association.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held at the Nantyglo and Blaina Hospital periodically. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council for the use of medical practitioners who require it.

As a result of the systematic practice of Immunisation very little has been needed this year. Sessions for the Immunisation of children have been held at regular intervals throughout the year.

The homes are visited by the County nurse. Parents wishing to have their child immunised make their request to the nurse, or at the Council Offices or to the Medical Officer. Notifications are then sent to the homes stating the place, date and time of the session. On the whole the response is good, but some parents fail to attend with their children after frequent notifications following their request.

During the year 225 children have been immunised, of these 218 were children under 5 years of age and 7 between 5 - 14 years.

NURSING OF THE HOME.

There are three midwives practising in the area appointed by the County Council. There is a District Nursing Association at Blaina affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. A nurse attached to the Institute is employed by the Association There is a similar District Nursing Association at Nantyglo affiliated to the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. The expenses of maintenance of the nurse in both districts is met by voluntary contribution.

HOSPITALS.

There is one General Hospital in the district with a capacity of 33 beds, 18 male, 8 female and 6 children. In addition there is a Maternity Wing of the Hospital with accommodation for 8 mothers and their babies.

The hospital is equipped with X-Ray, Ultra-Violet Ray and Electrical Apparatus. A certain number of beds are available for neccessitors cases at the Public Assistance Hospital, Ty Bryn Tredegar. There is a Maternity Hospital for unmarried mothers at Nantyderry to which the County Council contributes annually. It has accommodation for 16 women.

Provision is made by the County Authority for the isolation and treatment of Smallpox cases. Typhoid cases are treated by an arrangement with a Fever Hospital in another district.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is good but the supply in several parts of Nantyglo and the North end of Blaina is still very unsatisfactory. Here the flow for a varying number of hours each day is slow due apparently to the lack of pressure. The water in this area is liable to plumbo solvent action, consequently the Council do not allow the use of lead pipes.

During the year 9 samples were taken for Bacteriological and chemical examination and proved in each case to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE-SEWERAGE.

Drainage-Sewerage is on the water carriage system. The Subsidiary Sewers are connected up with the Western Valley (Mon.) Main Trunk Sewer which discharges into the Sea at low water, West of the mouth of the Usk. At Brynteg, Blaina, we have the combined system of surface water Sewerage-Drainage.

A new Surface Water Drainage is very necessary in this area to relieve the abnormal pressure which sometimes occurs in the present sewer.

RIVERS-STREAMS.

Considerable improvement resulted from the covering in of the river at Shop Row and Market Row but there is still some pollution of the river which will not be satisfactory until the whole length is covered in, particularly at Farm Road and Felin Fwg.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were no conversions from conservancy system during the year. Of the 3,000 houses in the district 450 are fitted with flush tanks the remainder are hand flushed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is still unsatisfactory. In spite of repeated warnings householders still deposit their refuse on open spaces near their homes. We have only one cesspool in our district, namely; at Cinder Tip Cottages. This occasionally requires cleansing but it normally drains through the large cinders.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No action has been found neccessary during the year under the Provision of the Shops Act 1934 relating to ventilation and the temperature of shops and to sanitary convenience. A part time Shops Inspector officiates in the area. No rag flock is made or sold in the area. The Marine Stores are inspected periodically.

SMOKE ABATEMENT—No action was necessary with a view to abatement of nuisance from smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS-POOLS.

There are no public or privately-owned Swimming Baths in the area. The ponds in the district are still used in spite of the fact that they are very dangerous and have been proved by bacteriological examination to be contaminated and quite unfit to be used as swimming pools.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Complaints were received from twelve homes during the year. The Sanitary Officers have visited the homes and have sprayed with insecticide in powder and liquid form. The householders have then been instructed as to the means of preventing re-infestation.

SCHOOLS.

The schools of the district have been visited on several occasions during the year. It was not found necessary to close the schools during the year on account of infectious diseases.

Section D.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts 261

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 261

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under 1 above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925-1932 11

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 23

(3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation 15

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officer 22

3.—Action under the Statutary Powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 11

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice 1

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By Local Authority ... 0

(b) Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices where served requiring defects to be remedied 46

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice 28

(a) By Owners 28

(b) By the Authority in default of Owner ... 0

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD—Periodic visits are paid to Fried Fish Shops, Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops, Provision Stores, Cowsheds, Purveyors of Milk and Farms.

MILK SUPPLY—The greater portion of the milk is brought in from places outside the area.

Number of Cow-keepers on register December 1946 4
Number of Milk Purveyors on register December 1946 ... 11
These latter all sell imported milk.

24 samples of milk were taken from persons retailing milk within the district. Of these, 20 were found to be satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Through co-operation of the Welsh Board of Health, the Ministry of Food and the Urban District Authorities of Nantyglo and Blaina, Abertillery, Abercarn, Blaenavon and Brynmawr an additional sanitary inspector was appointed to be a permanent meat inspector at the Government Controlled Abattoir, Brynmawr. His duties commenced September 30th, 1946. During October, November and December, 12,150 cattle, calves and sheep were killed. 11 tons, 18 cwts, 9 stone, 7 lbs were condemned as unfit for human consumption, the animals having suffered from Tuberculosis and other diseases. During the year 166 pigs were slaughtered by numerous cottagers in the area.

OTHER FOODS condemned were:

3 tins of Peas; 7 tins of Sardines; 39 tins of Evaporated Milk; 78 lbs of Vegetable Product; 5 tins of Stewed Steak; 10 tins of Meat and Vegetable; 10 tins of Salmon; 13 tins of Pilchards; 1 tin of Pork Luncheon; 3 lbs of Butter; 6½ lbs of Bacon; 1 tin of Plums; 1 tin of Tomatoes; 1 tin and 12 lbs of Sausage Meat; 66 Meat Pies; ½ lb of Suet; 24 lbs of Ham.

CONCLUSION—

Mr. Collier was appointed during the year in succession to Mr. W. T. Angell. We welcome him and wish him a successful term of office. I wish to thank Mr. Angell for his ready help and co-operation for many years and hope he will have a very happy retirement.

To the Members of the Council, your clerk Mr. G. R. Jenkins, the Sanitary Inspector, your Financial Officer and other members of the Council Staff, I wish to express my thanks for their help and unfailing courtesy throughout the year.

I am, your obedient servant,

F. M. WALLEN GUNN,
Medical Officer of Health.